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ONASSIS IN CAIRO FOR OIL CASE TALK

STATINTL

Confers With Lawyers Over
Aramco Protest on Tanker
Deal With Saudi Arabia

CAIRO, Jan. 15 (AP)—Aristotle Onassis, one-time immigrant boy whose oil tanker deal with Saudi Arabia is being contested by the world's biggest oil companies, flew to Cairo today.

His first business was to confer with some of the best lawyers of Britain and Egypt over the protest of the Arabian American Oil Company (Aramco) against his contract with Saudi Arabia to give Onassis tankers preference in shipping Arabian oil.

Mr. Onassis said he expected to fly to Jidda, Saudi Arabia, in a few days to talk over the oil tanker dispute with King Saud. He brushed off the dispute with the oil companies as "just a matter of business."

Aramco asserts the Onassis tanker deal is a violation of its concession exploit Saudi Arabian oil. Saudi Arabia, which would gain a tanker fleet under its flag, maintains it is not. The dispute now goes to arbitration.

Mr. Onassis said Aramco and the Saudi Arabians were each supposed to have named an arbitrator by Jan. 15, but that Aramco had asked a few days' extension.

Mr. Onassis conferred this afternoon with two British lawyers, Sir Lionel Heald and Norman Fox Andrews, who are his consultants. He said arbitration was the concern of the Saudi Arabian Government, "but I'm certainly an interested party."

He added that the Egyptian Government gave approval today for Dr. Helmyibahgat Badaoui, a leading Egyptian lawyer and chairman of the Egyptian committee supervising the take-over of the Suez Canal area from the British, to serve as chief lawyer for Saudi Arabia in the arbitration.

The big question was whether King Saud would go through with litigation. Aramco has said it will not compromise because the principle involved would damage the entire oil world. Some officials have hinted they might give up the oil concession if King Saud insists on giving Onassis tankers preference.

Asked what he would do if the oil companies refused to charter his present tankers as a retaliatory move, Mr. Onassis said: "Just what I'm doing now. We'll always find oil to ship."

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